

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0019

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, CY
SUBJECT: 1976-77 FULBRIGHT PROGRAM - TURKISH NON-PARTICIPATION

REF: (A) STATE 302007; (B) NICOSIA 3744

1. EMBASSY POSITION ON TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN CYPRUS FULBRIGHT PROGRAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUBJECT TO TWO CONSTRAINTS: (A) FULBRIGHT PROGRAM LEGALLY BASED ON BINATIONAL AGREEMENT, WHICH IN THIS CASE IS WITH GOC; AND (B) U.S. POLICY PRECLUDES RECOGNITION OF SELF-STYLED TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS. WE FULLY SHARE OBJECTIVE OF CONTINUED TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM AND HAVE GONE TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS WITH TURK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE. IN REQUESTING NEW APPROACH BY BILGEHAN (REF B), EMBASSY IN FACT COMMITTED ITSELF TO BEND NORMAL SELECTION PROCEDURES WHEREVER WE COULD TO MINIMIZE GREEK ROLE VIS-A-VIS TURKISH CANDIDATES AND TO MEET TURKISH SENSITIVITIES.

2. HARD FACT REMAINS THAT, WHILE EMBASSY HAS STRESSED THAT FULBRIGHT PROGRAM SHOULD NOT BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE, TFSC HAS MADE IT EXACTLY THAT AND ADMITS DOING SO. TFSC (DENKTASH WITH AMBASSADOR) EXPLICITLY INSISTS ON ITS OWN SEPARATE PROGRAM AND CAN BE COUNTED ON TO PUBLICIZE WHATEVER STEPS ARE MADE IN THAT DIRECTION AS A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION BY THE U.S.

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3. GREEK CYPRIOT OFFICIALS, RESPONDING TO EMBASSY'S PRINCIPLE OVER LAST 30 MONTHS OF TRYING TO KEEP PROGRAM ABOVE INTER-COMMUNITY POLITICS, HAVE UNENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED TO KEEP DOOR OPEN TO TURKISH CYPRIOTS VIA LEDRA PALACE. IN GREEK CYPRIOT THINKING, THIS AMOUNTS TO MAJOR CONCESSION IN FACE OF OFFENSIVE TURKISH RECALCITRANCE. IF GREEKS WERE TO HEAR (AS THEY INEVITABLY WOULD) OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO END-RUN BINATIONAL

AGREEMENT BY SETTING UP A SEPARATE TURKISH PROGRAM, THEIR REACTION WOULD BE INTENSELY NEGATIVE. AND WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH GREEK CYPRIOT ANTIPATHIES, WE ARE CONVINCED CLEARCUT EFFORT TO BRING IN MINORITY PARTICIPATION WOULD DEFINITELY RISK LOSING MAJORITY. WE WERE MINDFUL OF THIS AT TIME OF DISCUSSION WITH BILGEHAN AND FELT THAT, HAD TURKS TAKEN US UP ON OFFER TO MODIFY BINATIONAL SELECTION, WE WOULD HAVE HAD MAJOR PROBLEM IN SELLING IT TO GREEKS. SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY GOC AS EVIDENCE THAT U.S. HAD OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED DIVISION OF ISLAND, THUS PREJUDGING A SETTLEMENT.

4. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY ENDEAVORED TO DEMONSTRATE OUR SINCERE GOODWILL TO TURKISH COMMUNITY IN ANY AD HOC WAY WE CAN FIND. E.G., UPON RECEIVING PRIVATE INVITATION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATE FOR PARVIN FELLOWSHIP BEING OFFERED BY PRINCETON'S WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, AMBASSADOR POINTEDLY ASKED DENKTASH TO PROPOSE CANDIDATE SO TURKS COULD PARTICIPATE IN AN AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. UNFORTUNATELY, DENKTASH NOMINEE WAS DEFICIENT IN KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AND TIME CONSTRAINTS PREVENTED SUBMISSION OF SECOND CANDIDATE. EMBASSY HAS REACTED FAVORABLY TO TURKISH OFFICE OF EDUCATION REQUEST THAT IT BE PERMITTED TO (A) RECEIVE MATERIALS SO IT CAN PROVIDE ITS OWN STUDENT COUNSELLING PROGRAM, WHICH HITHERTO HAS BEEN EXCLUSIVELY HANDLED BY FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, AND (B) RECEIVE AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER ITS OWN TOEFL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS FOR STUDY IN THE U.S. TURKISH CYPRIOT IS BEING NOMINATED FOR ONE OF TWO INVATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY CENTER TO MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES AND USIS ROME. CU ADVICE ON TOEFL PROCEDURE HEREWITH REQUESTED.

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5. AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, EMBASSY INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORT TO PERSUADE TURKS TO TAKE NON-POLITICIZED APPROACH TO SCHOLARSHIPS. PROBLEM THAT WILL ARISE WITH GREEKS IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IS ONE WE WILL THEN HANDLE AS BEST WE CAN. MEANWHILE, GIVEN FULBRIGHT'S ACCREDITATION TO GOC AND U.S. POLICY OF RECOGNIZING GOC AS GOVERNMENT OF ALL CYPRUS, WE FEEL THAT THE TURKISH INSISTENCE ON POLITICIZING THE PROGRAM FORCES US TO DEAL WITH IT IN A POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND GIVES ANY U.S. MOVE TO ACCOMMODATE TURKISH SEPARATIST DESIRES AN UNACCEPTABLE POLITICAL CAST.
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